

INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT: Population Growth of Canton,
Canton, and Shanghai

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SOURCE

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1. The city of Lanchow is being expanded to a length of 90 kilometers. It will stretch from Fungshankun (鳳凰關) to the foot of Hsinglungshan (興隆山). It is expected to have a population of three to four million people. All engineering projects will be planned by Soviet experts.
2. In June 1951 the Canton Government announced the figure of 1,800,000 as Canton's population. This compares with a population previously known to be about 1,400,000 to 1,500,000. There is no sound economic reason for this population growth. The economy of the city is held up with industries declining, commerce suffering a serious reduction, and the unemployment figure running high.
3. During the past year the city of Shanghai has had a growth similar to that in Canton.

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1. Comment. It is probable that Canton's growth occurred mainly during the last six months when the land reform program became effective. The growth may be composed of the landlords and the richer peasants who are purged by the land reform measures. There may also be many poor peasants who are displaced in the economic confusion resulting from the reforms. The recent orders from authorities in the land reform areas which forbid land owners from leaving the villages may be evidence in support of this theory.

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